

Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-2

Element: Governors' Gallery Portraits

Location: Walls near the entrance to the Governor's Office on the second Floor west

Theme/Message:

Biographical sketches about each of Utah's governors

Description:

Series of oil paintings depicting each governor



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-3

Element: Copper & Wool Fiber Art Piece

Location: Second Floor north

Theme/Message:

This copper and wool fiber art piece was created by Maggie Harrison in 1982.

Description:

Copper and wool wall hanging by Maggie Harrison; 8' x 8'

Background Information:



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-4

Element: Copper Art Piece

Location: Second Floor north, west wall

Theme/Message:

This copper sculpture was created from pieces of copper which blew down from the Capitol dome in a windstorm in 1982. If you look closely you will be able to see the word UTAH spelled out both vertically and horizontally. The sculptor's name is unavailable at this time.

Background Information:

Description:

Copper abstract wall hanging



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-5

Element: Capitol Commission Painting

Location: North wall on Third Floor west

Theme/Message:

This painting honors the first Capitol Commissioners

Description:

Large oil painting of original capitol commissioners



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-6

Element: John C. Fremont Mural

Location: Northwest dome spandrel

Theme/Message:

“John C. Fremont Sights Great Salt Lake.”

Background Information:

Located in the spandrels at the base of the dome are four murals completed under the Federal Art Project of the New Deal program—the WPA. Each mural was painted on a 4,500 square foot canvas and depicted 100 figures, each ten feet high. Before they were transported to the capitol rotunda, the paintings were completed at the State Fairground. The project, funded with federal funds, was approved by the state board of examiners which consisted of Governor Henry H. Blood, Secretary of State Milton H. Welling, and Attorney General Joseph Chez, in February 1934.

Lee Greene Richards prepared the sketches for the four murals and presented them to Miss Helen Sheets, chair of the Utah Art Projects committee, in an effort to reduce the expenditures for the project by fifty percent.¹²³ The sketches Richards prepared were part of work being completed by ten other Utah artists. The murals depict important scenes from Utah’s history. The four spandrel murals narrate pictorially events from Utah Territory’s early history.

Description:

Large mural painted within the northwest spandrel



As land was acquired by the United States government for the public domain, systematic surveying and exploring of the area was a critical first step proceeding settlement. During the early 1840s the government sent surveyors and exploration parties to Utah territory to create more accurate maps and scientific studies of the area. John C. Fremont, Captain Gunnison, Captain Bonneville and Captain Stansbury surveyed the land and sent their reports to the U.S. Government. Reports about the Great Salt Lake were also made by mountain men such as Jim Bridger who had seen the lake as early as 1824 and believed, mistakenly, that he had reached the Pacific Ocean.



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-7

Element: Peter Skene Ogden Mural

Location: Northeast dome spandrel

Theme/Message:

“Peter Skene Ogden on the Ogden River, 1824.”

Description:

Large mural painted within the northeast spandrel

Background Information:

Fur trappers and explorers were important players in the first wave of exploration of Utah territory. Peter Skene Ogden worked for the Hudson Bay Company and was responsible for much of what was known about the region of the Snake River. As the leader of a group that mapped Bear River and Bear Lake, Cache Valley, and Weber Canyon. Ogden City was named after him.



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-8

Element: Brigham Young and Pioneers Mural

Location: On southeast dome spandrel

Theme/Message:

“Brigham Young Enters the Salt Lake Valley, 1847.”

Description:

Large mural painted within the southeast spandrel

Background Information:

Basing their exodus on information gathered about the Great Basin from Fremont’s report and other visitors to the region, Brigham Young led the Mormon people to Utah as a place of refuge and great promise. Here they intended to build Zion, a permanent home of orderly towns and sturdy homes which reflected the industry and cooperation so basic to their enterprise. Within two decades their towns spread in every direction and more than three hundred Mormon grid plan villages extended Latter-day Saint influence and dominion throughout the region.



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-9

Element: Utah State Seal Mosaic

Location: Mounted to south wall on third floor center

Theme/Message:

State seal

Description:

Circular, ceramic wall hanging representation of the state seal



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-10

Element: Father Escalante Mural

Location: Southwest dome spandrel

Theme/Message:

“Escalante and Dominguez 1776 Expedition.”

Description:

Large mural painted within the southwest spandrel

Background Information:

The earliest known recorded visit to the region was the exploration part of Spanish priests searching for a route from Santa Fe, Mexico to California for trade and for missionary work. Using the Colorado and Green rivers their Ute Indian guides took them to Utah lake. Their careful records provided valuable information about geography, flora and fauna, native American tribes and customs and were the first maps of the region.



Element Type: Artwork

Code: A-11

Element: Pioneers Entering Valley Mural

Location: West lunette

Theme/Message:

Arrival of Mormon Pioneers in 1847

Description:

Large mural painted on lunette

